

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 (602) 771-2300 • www.azdeq.gov

Assessment of Qualification for Treatment under the Arizona Natural and Exceptional Events Policy for the High Particulate (PM_{10}) Concentration Events in the Yuma Area on February 15, 2006

Background

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issues Dust Control Action Forecasts for the Yuma and Phoenix areas as part of the Natural Events Action Plan for these areas. On Monday February 13, 2006, ADEO air quality forecasters issued the Maricopa County Dust Control Action forecast calling for a high risk of exceeding the PM₁₀ NAAQS in the Phoenix Metro area for Wednesday February 15th. The forecast discussion mentioned the likelihood of significant winds and the possibility of blowing dust throughout the region. In addition to this forecast, a High Pollution Advisory was also issued for the Phoenix Metropolitan area for Wednesday February 15th in anticipation of strong winds capable of transporting coarse particulate matter. The forecasts/advisories satisfy the requirement in 40 CFR 51.920(a)(1).

During the early morning hours of the 15th, a positively tilted trough was situated near the California / Oregon border with a tight pressure gradient in place near the southeastern quadrant. As the trough of low pressure advanced southeast toward the State, westerly winds veered to the southwest and began to increase. While the Phoenix Metro area was most impacted by blowing dust associated with the strong and gusty SW winds ahead of the frontal boundary, blowing dust in Yuma was attributed to the WNW winds associated with a cold frontal passage. For this reason, highest hourly measurements of PM₁₀ occurred first in Phoenix, and were then followed by elevated PM₁₀ values in the Yuma area. The event brought significant wind and elevated ambient concentrations of PM₁₀ that exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards

(NAAQS) at the ADEQ Yuma Courthouse and Mexico Supersite continuous BAMS monitors. The fact that ambient concentrations exceed the NAAQS satisfies the criteria in 40 CFR 50.1(j) that the event "affects air quality."

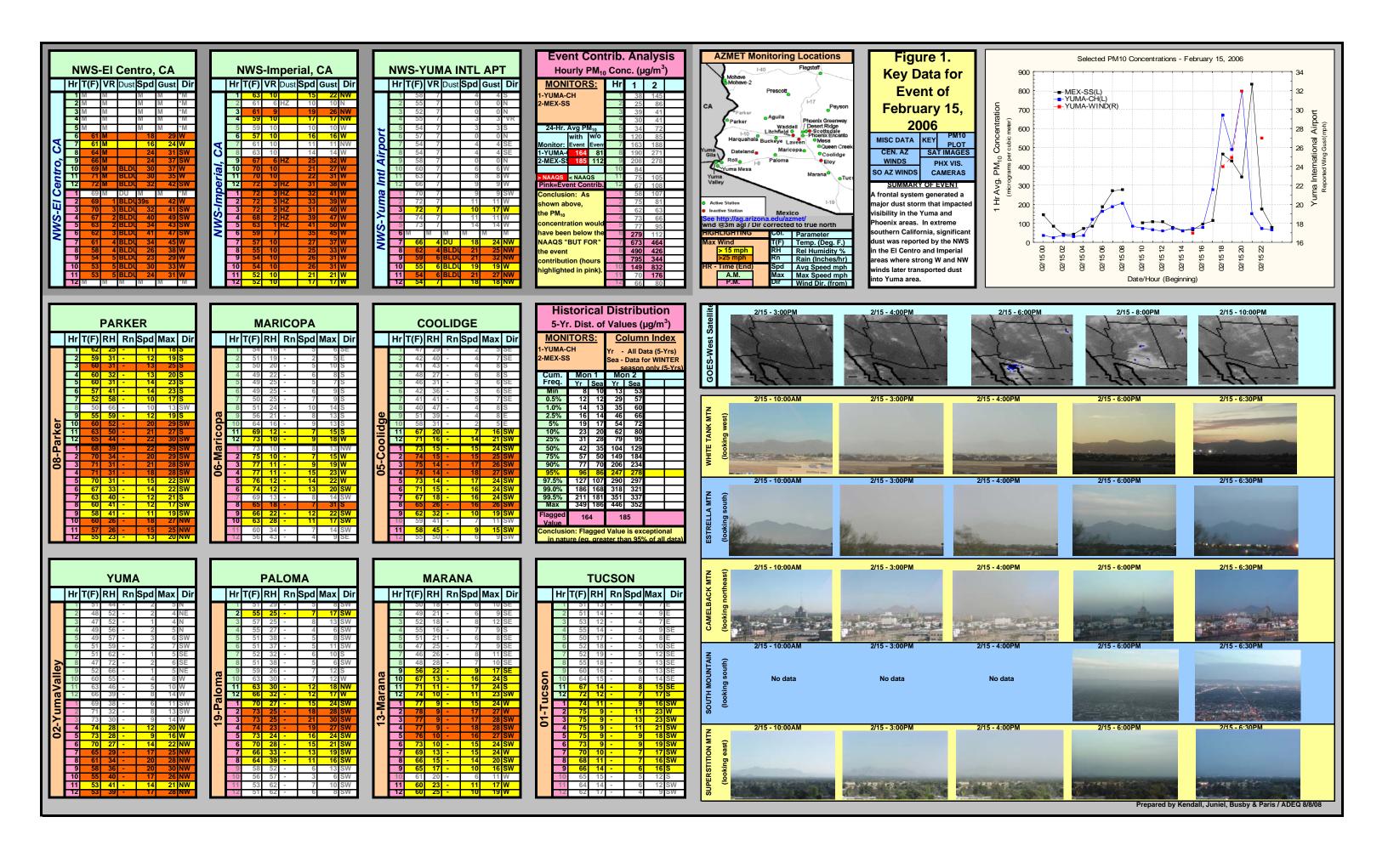
The high winds and blowing dust were a region-wide event that not only affected the Phoenix and Yuma Metro areas, but also affected numerous locations in southeastern California. NWS data from the Imperial County Airport indicate high winds throughout the day, with haze being reported for over seven hours with visibilities reducing to 1 1/4 miles. Similar reports came from El Centro, California, where winds gusted to 50 mph, blowing dust was reported for over 12 hours, and visibility was reduced to one mile. As evidenced by the strong winds and elevated PM₁₀, these weather conditions also persisted throughout the day in the Yuma and Phoenix metro areas. Blowing dust was reported at the Yuma Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) for numerous hours during the evening of the 15th (see attachments). All appropriate state implementation plan (SIP) control measures were in place during the event demonstrating, per 40 CFR 50.1(j), that the event "is not reasonably controllable or preventable."

Elevated PM_{10} concentrations were measured in the Yuma and Phoenix areas on February 15th. However, we are only requesting that the exceedances from the Yuma area monitors be flagged and excluded from regulatory analyses. The following are the key PM_{10} monitor readings for the monitors examined in this report:

Monitor (Operator/Type)	AQS ID *	24-hr Avg PM ₁₀	1-hr Max PM ₁₀	Time of Max 1-hr	Flag **
YUMA AREA					
Yuma Courthouse (ADEQ/BAM)	04-027-0004	164	795	2000	A or RJ
Mexico Supersite (ADEQ/BAM)	80-026-8012	185	832	2100	A or RJ

The preliminary findings from this analysis were presented at a stakeholders meeting in Yuma on November 13, 2007, and were made available for public review during a comment period that ended November 30, 2007. During that time, no comments were received from the public. ADEQ presented and discussed a draft final demonstration

at a stakeholder meeting on May 28, 2008. ADEQ has finalized this demonstration, which was made available for public comment from August 11, 2008, through September 10, 2008. Any comments that were received were forwarded to EPA with this demonstration pursuant to 40 CFR 51.14(c)(3)(i).



Assessment Under the Technical Criteria Document (TCD)

- 1. Properly qualify and validate the air quality measurement to be flagged. As this was not a filter sampling date (1-in-6 run day), only data from the continuous analyzers were examined. The air quality monitoring data were reviewed by the agency responsible for operation of the monitor. Data from the Yuma Supersite monitor operated by ADEQ was found to be invalid due to frequent power outages that occurred during the initial monitoring period which began one week prior to this significant wind event. Valid data collection at the Yuma Supersite began February 20th 2006. All hourly PM₁₀ readings from Yuma Courthouse and Mexico Supersite were valid for February 15th, with the exception of one hour from the Mexico Supersite that was invalid due to a brief power failure. Audits of the analyzers revealed operations were within acceptable tolerance. No local sources were reported as significantly contributing to the air quality episode.
- 2. Review suspected contributing sources. The AzMET and NWS surface data from the Phoenix metro area and southwestern Arizona / southeast California provide a good explanation of the meteorological conditions that were in place throughout the day of February 15th. Strong winds allowed for dry and loose soils to be easily picked up and transported. This transport is evident in the visibility camera images for the Phoenix metro area. While air quality typically improves during the afternoon hours as mixing heights increase, it can be clearly seen that visibility across the Phoenix metro area severely degraded during this time as winds increased. While no such visibility network exists for the Yuma area, such images can be inferred by comparing the meteorological data from Yuma, Phoenix, and southeast CA. Additionally, blowing dust reports from multiple NWS stations throughout southwest Arizona and southeast California, included in the upper left portion of Figure 1, are proof that strong winds picked up and transported dust and soils. The plot of hourly PM₁₀ concentration data in the upper right corner of Figure 1, in conjunction with the wind data, confirms the identical timing of the wind and elevated PM₁₀ concentrations. Finally, blowing dust and reduced visibilities reported at the Yuma MCAS were coincident with elevated PM₁₀ concentrations measured at both flagged sites.
- 3. Examine all air quality monitoring information. Data from all monitors in the network were reviewed. Monitors from the Yuma area are summarized in the table in the Background section of this assessment. Pursuant to 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(iii)(C), the "Historical Distribution" Table in Figure 1 has been included to demonstrate that the event is associated with measured concentrations in excess of

- normal historical fluctuations, including background (i.e., concentrations greater than the 95th percentile). All properly functioning monitors in the Yuma area exceeded the NAAQS, which suggests a regional component to the event.
- 4. Examine the meteorological conditions before and during the event. The AzMET meteorological data are summarized in Figure 1. The wind data are highlighted yellow if the max wind speed in the hour exceeds 15 mph and orange if it exceeds 25 mph. The event can be divided into two separate phenomena: (1) strong prefrontal SW winds occurring northeast of the Yuma area and (2) strong WNW winds associated with the frontal boundary that moved through the Yuma area later in the evening. Blowing dust in areas east of Yuma was attributed to prefrontal SW winds, while blowing dust in Yuma and southeast California was attributed to WNW winds associated with the passage of the frontal boundary.
- 5. Perform a qualitative attribution to emission source(s). All evidence indicates the elevated PM_{10} concentrations in the Yuma area can be attributed to soil emissions in the area north and west of Yuma that were transported over a broad area. No source-specific emission allocation is possible based on the data available for analysis. The hourly concentration data do not show any significant source other than the major wind-blown dust event for the evening episode. Observational reports of haze and blowing dust from trained officials is further proof that the elevated PM_{10} concentrations were attributed to soil emissions.
- 6. Estimation of Contribution from Source or Event. The primary source appears to be wind-blown dust over a wide geographic region for which there no effective or efficient method to estimate the relative contributions from specific sources. The demonstration analysis contained in this report establishes the linkage between the measurements to be flagged and the event, thus satisfying the requirement in 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(iii)(B). Pursuant to 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D), the "Event Contrib. Analysis" Table in Figure 1 has been included to demonstrate that there would have been no exceedances or violations but for the event (i.e., the contribution during the event overwhelmed the 24-hour averages).
- 7. Determination that a Natural or Exceptional Event Contributed To an Exceedance. Based on this analysis, the event satisfies the requirement in 40 CFR 50.1(j) that the elevated concentrations at both Yuma Courthouse and Mexico Supersite were attributed to a natural event.

Conclusion

Long-range transport of dust from soils. The regional wide elevated PM_{10} event on February 15, 2006, in Yuma and Maricopa County was a result of long-range transport of dust and soils from high winds that suspended natural soils and soils from areas where Best Available Control Measures are in place and should be flagged for air quality

planning purposes. The "high wind" flag (A or RJ) should be applied to the monitor readings indicated in the summary table at the beginning of this report, as monitors would have been below the NAAQS but for the contribution of the event.



Janet Napolitano, Governor Stephen A. Owens, ADEQ Director

MARICOPA COUNTY DUST CONTROL ACTION FORECAST ISSUED MONDAY, FEB 13, 2006

Three-day weather outlook:

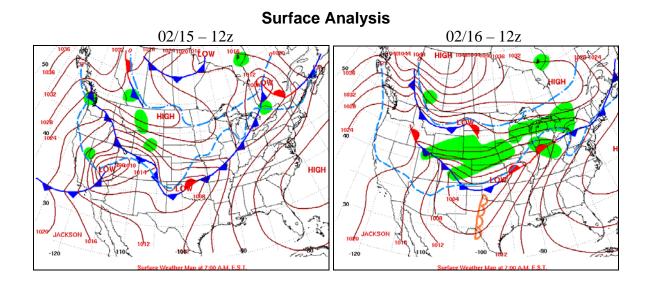
The air mass over the forecast area is expected to remain stagnant enough thru midday Tuesday to warrant a HIGH risk of unhealthy PM-10 levels. Then on Wednesday gradients and winds aloft are forecast to increase over the valley as a strong weather disturbance passes by to the north. Wind gusts as high as 30 mph may mix down to the surface by afternoon with a potential for areas of blowing dust; thus the HIGH risk will be retained. Lighter winds and minimal stagnation should warrant a LOW risk on Thursday.

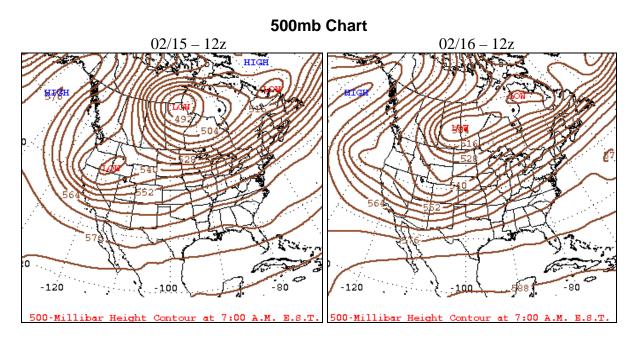
RISK FACTORS

	WINDS		STAGNATION		RISK LEVEL
Day #1: Tue 02/14/2006	Becoming south to southwesterly 5-15 mph by afternoon.	+	Quite stagnant during the morning hours with some improvement by afternoon.	=	HIGH
Day #2: Wed 02/15/2006	Becoming south to southwesterly 15-25 with higher gusts by afternoon.	+	No stagnation is expected.	=	нісн
Day #3: Thu 02/16/2006	Southwest to westerly 10-20 mph by afternoon.	+	No significant stagnation is expected.	=	LOW

The Maricopa County Dust Control Action Forecast is issued to assist in the planning of work activities to help reduce dust pollution. To review the complete air quality forecast for the Phoenix metropolitan area and the health effects of air pollution, please see ADEQ's Air Quality Forecast at http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf, or call 602-771-2367 for recorded forecast information.

Weather Charts for February 15-16, 2006





U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

QUALITY CONTROLLED LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (final) HOURLY OBSERVATIONS TABLE IMPERIAL COUNTY AIRPORT (03144) IMPERIAL , CA (02/2006)

National Climatic Data Center Federal Building 151 Patton Avenue Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Elevation: -59 ft. below sea level

Latitude: 32.834 Longitude: -115.579 Data Version: VER2

Date	Time (LST)	Station Type	Sky Conditions	Visibility (SM)	Weather Type		Туре		Dry Bulb Temp		Wet Bulb Temp		Dew Joint Joint Joint Joint	Rel Humd %	Wind Speed (MPH)	Wind Dir	Wind Gusts (MPH)	Station Pressure (in. hg)	Press Tend	Net 3-hr Chg	Sea Level Pressure	Report Type	Precip. Total (in)	Alti- meter (in. hg)
						(F)	(C)	(F)	(C)	(F)	<u> </u>		` ′		` ′			(mb)	(in. hg)		` ′	` "		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 1	0053 0153 0253 0253 0453 0553 0653 0753 1053 1153 1200 1204 1217 1226 1253 1303 1405 1420 1428 1453 1528 1605 1623 1653 1701 1708 1753 1853 1853 1853 1853 1853 1853 1853 18	12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1	CLR CLR CLR FEW004 FEW002 FEW002 CLR	10.00 6.00 9.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 2.00 1.25 2.00 4.00 2.50 3.00 2.50 3.00 2.50 3.00 2.50 3.00 1.25 2.50 3.00 1.25 1.50 3.00 1.25 1.75 3.00 7.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00 10.00	HZ H	63 61 61 59 59 57 61 63 70 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72 72	17.0 16.0 16.0 15.0 14.0 16.0 17.0 19.4 21.0 22.0 22.0 22.0 22.0 22.0 22.0 22.0	49 48 50 51 53 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55	9.5 9.0 9.6 9.5 9.0 10.1 10.6 11.3 12.7 12.7 12.7 12.7 12.7 12.3 12.3 12.3 12.3 12.1 11.7 11.4 10.9 10.4 10.9 9.9 9.9 9.9 9.9 9.9 9.9 9.9	34 34 37 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 39 37 37 37 37 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36	1.0 1.0 3.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 3.3 4.0 3.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 3.0 3.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 0.0 0	34 36 41 48 48 51 44 41 35 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 28 28 27 29 31 32 33 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	34 34 34 32 32 33 32 35 29 31 33 35 39 35 35 38 41 41 36 35 35 27	310 340 340 300 290 270 300 250 260 260 250 260 250 260 250 260 250 260 250 260 250 260 250 260 260 260 260 260 260 260 260 260 26	22 26 32 27 31 38 38 40 41 41 42 39 41 41 42 43 47 47 45 48 49 50 50 45 45 45 33 31 31 31	29.87 29.87 29.88 29.88 29.89 29.99 29.94 29.93 29.94 29.93 29.88 29.88 29.88 29.88 29.88 29.85 29.86 29.86 29.86 29.89 29.90 29.93 29.93 29.93 29.99 30.02 30.03	2	026	M M M M M M M M M M M M M M	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA		29.81 29.82 29.83 29.83 29.83 29.86 29.88 29.87 29.83 29.83 29.83 29.83 29.82 29.82 29.82 29.82 29.82 29.82 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.79 29.80 29.80 29.80 29.80 29.81 29.80 29.81 29.80 29.89 29.89 29.89 29.89 29.89 29.89 29.89 29.80 29.90 29		

Dynamically generated Tue Sep 04 16:07:53 EDT 2007 via http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/qclcd/QCLCD

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

QUALITY CONTROLLED LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (final)

National Climatic Data Center Federal Building 151 Patton Avenue Asheville, North Carolina 28801

HOURLY OBSÈRVÁTIONS TABLE
YUMA MARINE CORPS AIR STATION/YUMA INTL
AIRPORT (23195)
YUMA , AZ
(02/2006)

Elevation: 0 ft. above sea level

Latitude: 32.657 Longitude: -114.606 Data Version: VER2

Date	Time (LST)	Station Type	Sky Conditions	Visibility (SM)	Weather Type	В	Ory Bulb emp (C)	E	Wet Bulb emp (C)	Р	ew oint emp (C)	Rel Humd %	Wind Speed (MPH)	Wind Dir	Wind Gusts (MPH)	Station Pressure (in. hg)	Press Tend	Net 3-hr Chg (mb)	Sea Level Pressure (in. hg)	Report Type	Precip. Total (in)	Alti- meter (in. hg)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 1	0056 0156 0256 0356 0456 0456 0656 0756 0856 1056 1156 1256 1356 1456 1456 1856 1956 2056 2156 2256 2356	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	CLR CLR CLR CLR CLR CLR CLR CLR CLR FEW200 FEW200 FEW200 FEW200 FEW200 FEW200 FEW200 SCT200	4.00 6.00 6.00	DU BLDU BLDU BLDU BLDU BLDU	55 54 57 54 58 60 63 66 70 72 72 74 73 66	14.4 13.0 11.1 12.8 12.2 14.0 12.0 12.0 14.4 15.6 17.2 21.0 22.2 22.2 23.3 19.0 16.7 15.0 12.8 12.0	44 42 46 45 47 47 49 50 52 53 53 53 53 54 M 50 48 46 44 43	6.9 6.6 7.6 7.1 8.6 8.2 9.5 10.0 11.5 11.8 11.7 11.5 12.4 M 9.9 8.9 7.7 6.8 6.2 6.0	30 29 35 34 37 39 40 40 41 40 37 34 33 35 34 32 32 30 31 29	-1.0 -1.7 1.7 1.1 3.0 4.0 4.0 4.4 4.4 5.0 4.4 3.0 1.1 0.6 1.7 1.1 0.0 -1.0 -0.5 -1.7	47 57 57 51 48 45 39 30 25 24 24 M 28 32 33 340 38	0 3 3 0 4 4 0 6 8 9 9 11 11 11 14 18 21 19 21	320 300 290	17 24 25 32 27	29.63 29.62 29.62 29.66 29.67 29.66 29.63 29.60 29.57 29.56 M 29.58 29.58 29.62 29.61 29.63	0 8 6 3	014 014 020 017 020 017	M 29.81 29.83 29.84 M M 29.88 29.89 29.88 M 29.82 29.79 29.78 M 29.84 M 29.85	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA		29.81 29.82 29.85 29.86 29.85 29.85 29.85 29.89 29.90 29.90 29.89 29.86 29.83 29.80 29.79 M 29.81 29.85 29.84 29.85 29.84 29.85

Dynamically generated Wed Aug 22 16:39:15 EDT 2007 via http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/qclcd/QCLCD

U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

QUALITY CONTROLLED LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (final) HOURLY OBSERVATIONS TABLE NAF (23199) EL CENTRO , CA (02/2006) National Climatic Data Center Federal Building 151 Patton Avenue Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Elevation: -43 ft. below sea level

Latitude: 32.817 Longitude: -115.667 Data Version: VER3

Date	Time (LST)	Station Type	Sky Conditions	Visibility (SM)	Weather Type	E	Dry Bulb Temp		Wet Bulb Temp		ew oint emp	Rel Humd %	Wind Speed (MPH)	Wind Dir	Wind Gusts (MPH)	Station Pressure (in. hg)	Press Tend	Net 3-hr Chg	Sea Level Pressure	Report Type	Precip. Total (in)	Alti- meter (in. hg)
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	(F)	(C)	(F)	(C)	(F)	(C)	/0	(1011 11)		(1011 11)	(III. IIg)		(mb)	(in. hg)		(111)	(III. IIg)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
15	0555	5	CLR	М		61	16.1	51	10.3	40	4.4	46	18	270	29	29.86			29.82	AA		29.82
15		5	FEW060	М		61	16.1	51	10.3		4.4	46	16	280	24	29.88	1	007		AA		29.84
15	0755	5	FEW060 FEW100	М		64	17.8	52	10.8		3.9	40	24		31	29.91				AA		29.87
15	0855	5	FEW060 SCT100	М		66	18.9	52	11.3		3.9	37	24	240	37	29.92				AA		29.88
15	0955	5	FEW060 SCT150		BLDU	69	20.6	54	12.2	40	4.4	35	30		37	29.93	2	017		AA		29.89
15		5	FEW060 SCT150	М	BLDU	71	21.7	55	12.7	40	4.4	33	30	250	35	29.93			29.89	AA		29.89
15	1137	5	FEW060 SCT150		BLDU	72	22.0	55	12.7	39	4.0	30	31	240	40	29.92				SP		29.88
15		5	FEW060 SCT150	M	BLDU	72	22.2	55	12.9	40		31	32	240	42	29.91				AA		29.87
15	1255	5	FEW060 FEW150	М	DU		20.7	54	12.2	40		35	М	М		29.89	7	014		AA		29.85
15	1355	5	FEW060 FEW150	1.00	BLDU	69	20.7	54	12.2	40		35	39s	250	42	29.86				AA		29.82
15	1455	5	FEW060 FEW150	3.00	BLDU	70	21.1	53	11.7		2.2	29	32	240	41	29.84				AA		29.80
15	1555	5	FEW060 FEW150	1.50	BLDU	67	19.4	52	11.3			35	40	230	49	29.86	7	010		AA		29.82
15		5	SCT150	2.00	BLDU	63	17.3		9.5		1.1	34	34	240	43	29.88				AA		29.84
15	1755	5	FEW060 SCT150	3.00	BLDU	62	16.4		9.7		2.3	38	41		47	29.90				AA		29.86
15	1855	5	FEW060 SCT150	4.00	BLDU	61	16.2		9.0	34		36	34	250	45	29.92	2	020		AA		29.88
15			CLR	4.00	BLDU	58	14.4	46	7.5	30	-1.1	35	26	260	38	29.93	I			AA		29.89
15			CLR	5.00	BLDU	54	12.2		6.4	30	-1.1	40	23	250	29	29.96				AA		29.92
15		5	CLR	5.00	BLDU	53	11.7		6.3			43	30	250	33	29.98	2	020		AA		29.94
15	2255	5	FEW150	5.00	BLDU	53	11.7	44	6.5	32	0.0	45	24	250	31	30.00			29.96	AA		29.96

Dynamically generated Tue Sep 04 16:05:41 EDT 2007 via http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/qclcd/QCLCD